

**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #11
June 12, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE: The World Health Organization updated the count of confirmed human cases of H5N1 influenza to 225 (up by 1 case from last week). Of these cases, 128 cases have died (56.9%). The only country experiencing additional human disease this week was Indonesia, which has now reported 49 cases with 37 deaths (75.5% mortality). This new case is not linked to the family cluster of seven cases reported previously; surveillance has identified no new cases linked to that cluster. As a result, the WHO pandemic alert remains at phase 3, indicating no or limited person-to-person transmission of the virus.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- The next Pan Flu Advisory Committee meeting has been scheduled in June 28th 0900-1300, at Expressions in the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center.
- VDH representatives presented information on pandemic influenza preparedness to the Virginia Police Chiefs' Foundation In-service Deputy Police Chiefs' training on June 5th at Radford University.
- Dr. Kaplowitz will provide a Pandemic Influenza planning update to members of the Commonwealth Preparedness working Group on June 15th.
- An exercise planning conference regarding continuing development of the October Pan Flu Exercise "Fowl Play" will be conducted on June 12 in Fairfax.
- Upcoming Regional and Local PanFlu Summits are scheduled as follows:

Far SW Region	July 20
Near SW Region	August 22
Lord Fairfax	June 22
Eastern Shore	August 8
Fairfax	May 26
Pittsylvania-Danville	Late July
Rappahannock-Rapidan	June 21
Central Shenandoah	June 30
Middle Peninsula	August 1
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – EP&R Region Reports

- The VDEM Region 7 (Northern Virginia) Pandemic Influenza Seminar was conducted at George Mason University on Wednesday, June 7. Denise Sockwell of the VDH Office of Epidemiology, and Dr. Reuben Varghese and Josephine Peters of the Arlington Health Department, delivered presentations on local planning for pandemic influenza. Dr. Lisa Kaplowitz participated with all presenters on a panel discussion. There were also presentations by a number of local government leaders. The conference was attended by approximately 100 local emergency managers, first responders and government officials.
- On June 9, 2006, Office of Epidemiology staff, the Arlington Health Department Health Director, a representative from the CDC Quarantine Station in D.C. and Admiral John Agwunobi (Assistant Secretary for Health, DHHS) participated in a panel on avian/pandemic influenza at the Northern Virginia Police Chiefs and Sheriffs conference held in Charlottesville, Virginia. Discussion focused on pandemic influenza plans at the federal, state, and local levels, with an emphasis on the importance of law enforcement preparations.
- Representatives from the Northern Region have established contact with the hospice community to initiate panflu planning efforts.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports

- **Arlington**
 - Dr. Varghese and Josephine Peters participated in the VDEM Region 7 Pandemic Influenza Seminar, presented information on Community Containment and participated in the dialogue on planning efforts.
- **Central Shenandoah**
 - Planner attended a pilot meeting at JMU with Senior Navigator to assist in the development of a Special Needs Registry blueprint. As part of the Community-based Co-coordinated Services System, (CCSS), this voluntary registry will collect important information about older adults and people with disabilities who need help in an emergency, so those who need special assistive services can be easily identifiable and accessible.
 - Began design of a district plan and implementation of technology that will assist the district in being able to accurately track the storage and transport temperatures of vaccines and other medicines.
 - Met with Homestead Resort staff on June 8, 2006 to plan for future Bath County dispensing needs using their facilities and resources to assist the Community.
- **Chesterfield**
 - Health Director gave two presentations on Pandemic Flu during the June 8, 2006 Capital One Expo.
 - District Epi presented on Pan Flu to employees of Chrysallis, a Chesterfield-based business, on June 7, 2008.
 - District Planner participated in planning efforts with the Asian American Business Assistance Center on June 8, 2006. Pan Flu information and other emergency preparedness materials were distributed to the membership. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2006.
 - Completed a staffing plan for the District's summer Pan Flu initiatives.
 - Receiving and reviewing Pan Flu survey responses from local physicians.
 - Continued development of health education materials on Pan Flu.

- **Chesapeake**
 - The Director and Emergency Planner were guests on the television program “Sounding Board” and discussed pandemic influenza as well as Chesapeake’s upcoming antibiotic dispensing exercise, “Special Delivery – 06”. This show will be aired on cable Channel 48 and will be shown several times during the week.
 - Staff will operate a display booth at the City’s “Spring Fest 2006” to raise flu prevention awareness in the local community and remind them about hygiene and prevention. Pan Flu preparedness check lists and Z-cards were distributed. Sample hand sanitizers and Virginia Pandemic Influenza Summit t-shirts were presented to those who drew a winning ticket. Chesapeake’s MRC was also present, providing information and recruiting new members. A list of several individuals interested in joining the MRC was generated.
 - The Director and Emergency Planner were the guest speakers regarding pandemic influenza information and planning to the Chesapeake Economic Advisory Group meeting. Approximately 40 members of the business community were in attendance.
- **Crater**
 - Sending out packets to physicians to provide clinical, patient and planning information for a pandemic and/or other public health emergencies.
 - Preparing similar packets to be distributed to all the school systems in our District.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
 - CPHD Director and Epidemiologist facilitated quarterly Mountain Empire Public Health Emergency Coordination Council in which Kentucky, Tennessee, and SW Virginia representatives shared their states’ pandemic flu planning activities and discussed mutual planning efforts (Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit).
 - CPHD Planner facilitated VDEM’s Emergency Planning and Special Needs Population video conference course with representatives from the local Emergency Services Coordinators, Department of Social Services, Department of Health, local Community College, and Western Licensing Board. Eight people attended the course, which included discussion of the pandemic influenza planning process.
 - CPHD Planner communicated daily with local counterparts in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia to plan the Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit.
 - CPHD management staff and Planner met to further plan district activities in the following: tabletop exercise, July 12; Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit, July 20; statewide exercise October 23-26, and dispensing drill November 3, 2006.
 - Director prepared a media release on pandemic influenza preparation in response to a telephone call from the Dickenson Star newspaper. Media release was sent to all local media outlets, and will be released to regional media outlets after discussion with other regional public health offices.
- **Henrico**
 - District Planner staffed a booth at the Capitol One Expo on emergency preparedness, disseminating literature and answering questions for over 100 employees.
 - District Planner participated in a regional meeting with the Asian American Business Assistance Center (AABAC) of the Richmond regional area. During the meeting, agreement was reached to conduct a series of planning sessions that culminate in a regional outreach event to the Asian American community.

- MRC Volunteers were contacted and recruited for participation in the Henrico Health District mass vaccination exercise on Nov 4, 2006. 27 volunteers have already committed to participate in that event.
- District Epidemiologist met with the Infection Control Practitioner (ICP) from Henrico Doctors' Hospital – Parham Campus (HDH-P) to discuss Avian Flu case reporting protocols, provide “Cover your Cough” posters for distribution within the hospitals, schools, and community groups, and to discuss other pandemic flu planning issues.
- District Planner spoke with the ICP from HDH-P to follow up on Pandemic Flu planning issues and answer questions.
- District Planner participated in the final planning conference for the upcoming Richmond Urban Area Security Initiative (RUASI) exercise on June 28, 2006.
- District Epidemiologist & District Planner developed slides and handouts for Continuing Medical Education (CME) seminar at HDH-P on June 13, 2006.
- District Epidemiologist sent weekly Avian flu update to Hospital ICPs and Richmond International Airport (RIC).
- Meeting with RIC and CDC Dulles Airport Quarantine Station Chief set for June 23rd to discuss RIC Communicable Disease Control Plan.
- **Lenowisco**
 - District Planner continues work with the regional pandemic flu summit committee, completing the summit flyer, contacting facilitators and working on publicity & press packets.
 - The District Planner has been working with local groups including businesses, colleges/universities, and water/sewer utilities on Pan Flu planning efforts. Working with UVA at Wise concerning preliminary efforts on their plan and will be arranging a meeting this week with several college representatives to discuss & review their plan. Also working with Virginia Rural Water and will be meeting with them to discuss and develop a packet or template that VRWA can then use to assist their affiliated treatment facilities in drafting flu plans. Spoke to Chamber of Commerce representatives and will be talking at greater length this week to them to determine the most effective approach for their members to develop plans.
 - The District Planner and Epidemiologist met with Flatwoods Job Corp to discuss Pandemic Flu Planning. Provided information on Pandemic Influenza, the pandemic influenza checklist for schools and other information to assist them in putting together a pandemic flu plan for their organization. The District Planner and Epidemiologist are on the agenda to do a pandemic flu presentation for the Job Corp staff.
 - The District Epidemiologist has been talking to the Wise County Administrator's Office regarding Pandemic Flu Planning for the County. Plan to have meetings with the County Administrators and Emergency Managers within the next few weeks to discuss pandemic flu planning for each locality.
 - The Health Director was a presenter at the Wise County Board of Supervisor's meeting and discussed Pandemic Flu.
 - Talked to Wise County School personnel regarding the Pandemic Flu Summit next month. Also, mailed Pandemic Flu information to assist Wise County School's in their Pandemic Flu Planning efforts.
 - The District Epidemiologist attended the Mountain Empire Public Health Emergency Coordination Council meeting and there was much discussion about Pandemic Flu Planning with Virginia, Kentucky and Virginia partners. Also, discussed the upcoming Pandemic Flu Summit.

- **Lord Fairfax**
 - District Pandemic Flu efforts are focused on preparations for their upcoming Summit scheduled for June 22.
- **Loudoun**
 - Addressed questions on avian influenza at local urgent care center.
 - Met with Loudoun County agricultural extension agent and secured agreement to facilitate invitation of county veterinarians to pandemic flu seminars.
 - Identified and met with key individuals in the Loudoun County courts system to solicit their attendance at seminars.
 - Continued Work on draft plan and organization of Loudoun Pandemic Flu Preparedness Task Force Activities workgroup leadership. 24/7 contact information spreadsheet updated of all county department directors.
 - With the Regional PIO, presented a pandemic influenza overview, local planning and response, and risk communications, to about 35 members of the International Food Distributors Association. They addressed the questions submitted from the Loudoun Panflu Task Force in their tabletop session and will submit the results to us. Discussed issues of cross training food service employees and changing models of food delivery (e.g., having restaurants prepare and package take home/delivered meals in lieu of customers coming to restaurant; switching supply chain to non-perishable pre-packaged food items vs. labor-intense perishable food packaging), and developing local emergency management and health dept. contacts relationships in advance.
 - Delivered Panflu presentation to 3 primary care offices and one occupational/preventive medicine office setup by Corporate Health Care, Sterling. Issues of concern included: procurement and supply chain, masks, supply inventories, international travel via Dulles airport, HR issues in staffing absences, and the inability of the current IT infrastructure to manage overload. Physicians preferred this informal training rather than the formal Grand Rounds training.
 - Conducted exercise planning team meeting for Loudoun Health District Exercise ("Code Flu 06").
 - Submitted local input for October Fowl Play exercise for June 12th exercise meeting in Fairfax
 - Conducted interviews for temporary Panflu Admin position.
 - Developed "Target Audience" list of groups to be invited to upcoming pandemic flu seminars. Briefed part time summer college intern who will be assisting the Health Educator in implementing seminars.
- **Peninsula**
 - The District Director and the Fire Administrator/Emergency Coordinator for James City County taped a local lead-in for running the VDH's pandemic influenza video on the county's local public access channel. (June 6, 2006)
 - The district planner presented and answered questions on pandemic influenza planning for approximately 25 representatives of governmental and nongovernmental agencies at a meeting of the Greater Williamsburg Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) on June 8, 2006, and approximately 25 individuals attending the Peninsula Foodbank Conference on June 9, 2006.
 - The District Planner and the Supervisor Health Services, Newport News Public Schools presented and answered questions on pandemic influenza planning for the School Board. (June 6, 2006)

- District senior staff established objectives and dates for mass influenza vaccine clinics in October. Mass vaccine clinics on October 17 and 19 have a goal of immunizing 1,000 persons per day at the Peninsula Health Center. On October 24, concurrent community mass influenza vaccination clinics at two locations serving underserved communities within the district have a goal of immunizing 1,000 persons at each site. All events will involve all district staff, members of the Peninsula Medical Reserve Corps, and other community partners.
- **Piedmont**
 - Delivered presentation to the Council of Independent Colleges of Virginia on college preparedness for a possible pandemic of avian influenza. The conference was held at Hampton-Sydney College and was made jointly by Drs. Kaplowitz and Rankin.
 - A Dispensing Site drill was held in Cumberland County based on the scenario of an influenza pandemic. Experienced a high level of participation from community partners.
- **Roanoke**
 - Conducted follow-up meeting with City of Roanoke stakeholder's group that included the formation of subcommittees.
 - LEPC panflu meeting planning continues.
 - Conducting interviews for health educator to assist in panflu preparedness efforts.
 - Identified needs that must be addressed for EMS, e.g., pursuing EMS panflu protocols issued by OEMS that would allow for phone triage and non-transport of patients, and providing EMS with funding to obtain adequate stockpiles of appropriate PPE.
- **Southside**
 - Conducted a panflu tabletop/summit in Mecklenburg County on Friday, June 9 for local healthcare, business, governmental, emergency management and school partners. Approximately 30 attended, including MRC volunteers. The first Task Force meeting will be held in mid July.
 - Conducted the first Pan flu coordinating committee meeting in Halifax County on Friday, June 9. About 40 partners attended. There were some great ideas exchanged about outreach to the community. Monthly meetings will continue.
 - The summer pan flu trainer held a pan flu and personal/family preparedness meeting in a church in Virgilina, Va. on Sunday, June 11.
- **West Piedmont**
 - District Director attended a VDEM Polycom Course entitled "Emergency Planning for Special Needs Populations." Aspects of this training will be applied to the District's Pandemic Influenza planning, as special needs populations will require additional consideration.
 - District Epidemiologist and Nurse Supervisor scheduled a training course through Henry County Department of Public Safety (DPS) for Henry County law enforcement officers. The training session will include an infectious disease overview, information on Pandemic Influenza, and an outline of roles that law enforcement officers may play in an influenza pandemic.
 - District Epidemiologist and Nurse Supervisor scheduled a training course through Henry County DPS for Henry-Martinsville, Patrick, and Franklin County Fire and EMS. The training session will contain an infectious disease update component and an introduction to Pandemic Influenza preparedness.